Iterative Teleology: The Impact of AI on Human Motivation

Introduction

The increasing interaction between humans and artificial intelligence raises new philosophical and psychological questions about purpose and motivation. This article explores how iterative teleology redefines human objectives in this context.

Theoretical Framework

Classical Teleology

Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas laid the foundations of classical teleology, where the purposes of living beings are inherently determined. For Aristotle, every human action seeks a supreme good, while Aquinas integrated this idea into theological thought, emphasizing a divine purpose.

Evolutionary Teleology

With Charles Darwin, teleology was reinterpreted through biological evolution. Human behavior ceased to be seen as predetermined and became the result of adaptation.

Iterative Teleology

The emergence of artificial intelligence introduces iterative teleology: a process in which repeated interactions with AI gradually modify human motivation and objectives. This phenomenon not only expands access to knowledge but also influences self-perception and everyday decisions.

Human Motivation and Behavior

From the perspective of motivational psychology, theories such as Maslow's or Deci and Ryan's self-determination theory can be reinterpreted in light of AI. Iterative interaction can satisfy needs for autonomy, competence, and social connection but can also generate dependence or cognitive distortions.

Iterative Pedagogy

Iterative pedagogy serves as a means for individuals to understand and manage the effects of AI on their motivations. Through strategic prompts and guided dialogues, it promotes critical reflection and conscious decision-making.

Conclusion

Iterative teleology highlights the need for the conscious use of AI, recognizing its capacity to influence human motivation. Understanding this impact is essential to maintaining autonomy and personal purpose in an increasingly digital world.

Footnotes

1. Aristotle. Nicomachean Ethics, Book I.

2. Thomas Aquinas. Summa Theologica, Part I-II.

3. Darwin, C. On the Origin of Species.

4. Maslow